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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph 0022 in this application:

FIG. 6 is a top plan view of an implant embodiment similar to that of FIG. 1.

Please replace paragraph 0030 in this application with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] Referring to FIGS. 1-3, an illustrative embodiment of a fusion implant 10 includes first 12 and second 14 bone pieces held together with first 16 and second 18 bone pins. By using two pins 16,18 the bone pieces 12,14 are prevented from rotating relative to one another. The assembled implant is in the form of a rectangular prism having six exterior surfaces 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30. As seen in FIGS. 2 and 3, the pins are positioned obliquely so that they are neither parallel nor perpendicular to any of the exterior surfaces. In FIG. 2 it can be seen that the pins are oblique relative to four of the exterior surfaces 20, 22, 24, 26 and in FIG. 3 it can be seen that the pins are also oblique to the other two 28, 30 exterior surfaces. The first pin 16 angles into the body upwardly from the bottom 22 and outwardly toward one side 30. The second pin 18 angles downwardly and outwardly away from the first pin 16. The pins 16, 18 taper from a first end 32, 34 having a first diameter to a second end 36, 38 having a second diameter. The pins 16, 18 in the example are pressed into the assembly so that they wedge tightly into place. The pins 16, 18 are shown with their first ends 32, 34 adjacent an exterior surface 32 of the implant and their second ends 36, 38 buried within the implant. However, the pins 16, 18 may optionally extend

completely through the implant (FIG. 6). Likewise, both the first 32, 34 and second 36, 38 ends of the pins 16, 18 can be buried in the implant. The pins 16, 18 are shown entering the implant from the same side 24, however they can enter from opposite sides 24, 26. Additional pins (not shown), for example third and fourth pins, similar to the first 16 and second 18 pins, can be positioned opposite the first and second pins 16, 18. FIG. 4 illustrates how the taper of the pins facilitates pinning from opposite sides as it allows them to occupy a smaller space 40 than non-tapered pins. The taper allows the pins to be placed closer together while maintaining a predetermined minimum spacing between the pins. Each pin has a longitudinal axis 37 and a diameter 39 associated with the larger end. The taper permits the axes 37 of the pins to cross one another in the body at an axial spacing 41 less than one-half the sum of the diameters 35 of the larger ends such that one pin passes through the envelope of the other.